AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a sintered body, comprising sealing a material powder composed of metallic powder or alloy powder and a getter material having a higher oxidation potential than that of the material powder under reduced pressure in a metallic container, keeping the metallic container at pressure not higher than 50 MPa and at temperature not lower than 500°C for 1 to 50 hours, and then sintering the material powder in the metallic container at pressure higher than 50 MPa and at temperature not higher than 1340°C.

2. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the getter material comprises an element or elements belonging to the IVa group or the Va group of the periodic table of the elements.

3. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the metallic powder and the alloy powder have the melting point not lower than 1600°C.

4. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein a material powder composed of metallic powder or alloy powder having ~~the~~ a melting point not lower than 1600°C, and a getter material having a higher oxidation potential than that of the material powder and comprising an element or elements belonging to the IVa group or the Va group of the periodic

table of the elements are sealed under reduced pressure in a metallic container.

5. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a sintered body, comprising sealing a material powder composed of metallic powder or alloy powder, a getter material having a higher oxidation potential than that of the material powder, and a hydride, which constitutes a hydrogen source, under reduced pressure in a metallic container, keeping the metallic container at pressure not higher than 50 MPa and at temperature not lower than 500°C for 1 to 50 hours, and then sintering the material powder in the metallic container at pressure higher than 50 MPa and at temperature not higher than 1340°C.

6. (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the getter material comprises an element or elements belonging to the IVa group or the Va group of the periodic table of the elements.

7. (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein the metallic powder and the alloy powder have the melting point not lower than 1600°C.

8. (original): The method according to claim 5, wherein an element combining with hydrogen to form the hydride has the hydrogen dissociation temperature higher than 400°C.

9. (currently amended): A method according to claim 5, wherein a material powder composed of metallic powder or alloy powder having ~~the~~ a melting point not lower than 1600°C, a getter material having a higher oxidation potential than that of the material powder and comprising an element or elements belonging to the IVa group or the Va group of the periodic

table of the elements, and ~~a~~ the hydride having ~~the~~ a hydrogen dissociation temperature higher than 400°C are sealed under reduced pressure in a metallic container.